

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05601 100944Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 /026 W

-----039947 100947Z /20

O 091910Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5759

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3440

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5601

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, SY, US

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: STATE 268266

1. CALLED ON PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FONMIN BOUTROS AT
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT 1830 LOCAL AND DELIVERED
TO THEM PORTION OF PARA 1 REFTEL CONTINING TEXT OF
DEMARCHE ON SOUTH LEBANON BEING MADE IN OTHER
CAPITALS. THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID
THEY TRYING WORK ON PALESTINIANS THROUGH SYRIANS,
NONE OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP HAVING BEEN IN BEIRUT TODAY
(ABU IYAD WAS IN DAMASCUS, ARAFAT IN CAIRO AND

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ABU JIHAD IN SOUTH LEBANON). THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT
ISRAELIS WOULD RESPOND FORCEFULLY TO ANY FURTHER
ROCKET ATTACKS AND SEEMED RESIGNED ABOUT LOSSES
FROM TODAY'S AIR STRIKES. SARKIS SAID DEATH TOLL
PERHAPS 100, MOST OF THEM LEBANESE WOMEN AND
CHILDREN. HE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY SOME OF
PLACES IN QUESTION WERE HIT. AZIYA, FOR INSTANCE,

WAS VILLAGE WHICH KNOWN TO BE FULL OF REFUGEES FROM BORDER AREA. AT THIS POINT HE AND BOUTROS WERE NOT DISPOSED TO MAKE COMPLAINT IN SECURITY COUNCIL BECAUSE THEY FELT ALL THAT WOULD EMERGE WOULD BE EVENHANDED RESOLUTION BLAMING BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTININS, AND THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD USE LEBANESE PRESENTATION OF COMPLAINT AS PROOF THEY NOT AT FAULT.

2. AS WE WERE TALKING, SARKIS CALLED SAMI KHATIB TO GET CONFIRMATION WHEREABOUTS OF ARAFAT AND TO CONFIRM THAT LATTER WOULD BE GOING TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW MORNING TO MEET WITH ASSAD, AS SCHEDULED. KHATIB CHECKED WITH PALESTINIAN SOURCES AND CALLED BACK TO SAY ARAFAT PLANNING BE THERE. SARKIS AND BOUTROS THOUGHT THIS GOOD SIGN. BOUTROS THEN ASKED TO REVIEW BIDDING ON NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE BREAKDOWN OF CEASE-FIRE. HE SAID AS HE UNDERSTOOD STATE OF PLAY, IT WAS AGREED LEBANESE ARMY COULD MOVE INTO AREA VACATED BY PALESTINIANS WITHOUT WAITING FOR POST-WITHDRAWAL ILMAC MEETING. RATHER, TEAMS INCLUDING UN OBSERVERS, OF WHOM ONE MUST BE AMERICAN TRUSTED BY US, WOULD CHECK AREA TO MAKE SURE EVACUATION COMPLETE BEFORE LEABANESE MOVED IN. WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLAN WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO ISRAELIS IN ADVANCE. ENTRY INTO

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CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES WOULD BE WITH CONSENT LEBANESE FORCES IN THEM. LEBANESE WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED LET HADDAD'S MEN PARTICIPATE IN INSPECTION TEAMS. I SAID THIS WAS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING. (ON REFLECTION, HOWEVER, THERE IS MISSING LINK. WE NEED AGREEMENT ON HOW ISRAELIS TO BE INFORMED THAT EVACUATION IS COMPLETE.)

3. SARKIS SAID HE HAD TOLD ASSAD THAT, AS OF MOMENT THEY WERE SPEAKING, THERE WAS NO OBSTACLE FROM ISRAELI SIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION SHTAURA AGREEMENT, ALL PROBLEMS HAVING BEEN WORKED OUT. ASSAD HAD BEEN VERY SURPRISED AND HAD SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS ISRAELIS WHO WERE HOLDING THINGS UP.

4. BOUTROS SAID LEBANESE CONTINUED HOPE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT AND WERE WORKING TO THAT END. THEY WOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT CHANCES OF SUCCESS AFTER ASSAD-ARAFAT MEETING TOMORROW. IN MEANTIME, THEY HOPED WE COULD GET ISRAELIS TO WORK ON HADDAD TO FACILITATE ENCLAVE

ENTRY PROBLEM. HE ASKED WHAT I HAD DONE ABOUT HIS REQUEST IN THIS RESPECT MADE YESTERDAY. I SAID I HAD REPORTED IT TO WASHINGTON AND TEL AVIV AND DEPARTMENT HAD AUTHORIZED AMBASSADOR LEWIS TO RAISE IT WITH ISRAELIS AT HIS DISCRETION. I WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED, HOWEVER, TO URGE LEBANESE TO TALK TO HADDAD ON THEIR OWN. THIS WOULD FACILITATE OUR APPROACH TO ISRAELIS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

5. SARKIS SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE PRESENT MOMENT WAS THE TIME FOR THEM TO APPROACH HADDAD. PEOPLE WERE TOO EXCITED. THEY NEEDED A LITTLE TIME, BUT IF IN THE MEANTIME THE ISRAELIS COULD

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TALK TO HADDAD, THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE LEBANESE. HE THOUGHT APPROACH TO HADDAD SHOULD BE THAT IT IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO DEPRIVE PALESTINIANS OF PRETEXT THAT ENTRY OF TROOPS WAS NOT BALANCED. HE SAID WE PRESUMABLY AWARE OF THEIR EARLIER CONTACTS WITH HADDAD. THEY HAD SINCE RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM HADDAD SAYING HE AT DISPOSITION OF PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC AND THAT HE STOOD FOR LEGITIMACY. IF ISRAELIS WOULD WORK ON HIM HE COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND.

PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, PALESTINIANS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT05601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770417-0973
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771180/aaaacqqp.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 102bb71e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 268266
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 664597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, SY, US, (SARKIS, ELIAS), (BOUTROS, FOUAD)
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/102bb71e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009